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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,915	03/31/2004	Amy Swift	1DATA.060A	5074

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Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP
2040 Main Street
Fourteenth Floor
Irvine, CA 92614

EXAMINER

PAIK, STEVE S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	<p>Application No.</p> <p align="center">10/813,915</p>	<p>Applicant(s)</p> <p align="center">SWIFT ET AL.</p>	
	<p>Examiner</p> <p align="center">Steven S. Paik</p>	<p>Art Unit</p> <p align="center">2876</p>	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 22-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-13, 22-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 25, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed October 24, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 24 and 25 recite the limitation "the biometric information" in line 1, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The applicant amended claim 22 which appears to cause this insufficient antecedent basis. It is respectfully suggested to amend claim 22 to recite - - biometric information of the customers - -.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this

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subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mollett et al. (US 2003/0216988 A1, cited by the applicant).

Re claim 1, Mollett et al. disclose a method of processing financial transactions from a customer at an unmanned location ([0046]), the method comprising:

acquiring customer identification information (such as a telephone number or driver's license number) from at least one customer;

acquiring transaction identification information (such as check amount, check account number, type of merchant and location of the merchant) associated with one or more previous financial transactions performed by the customer, wherein the transaction information comprises information about a financial instrument (check amount and check account number) and wherein the transaction information is different than the customer identification information (a telephone number or driver's license number is different than a check amount or check account number);

determining suspicious activity associated with one or more previous financial transactions by identifying one or more validation errors in the transaction information (In addition to the telephone number offered by the customer, the telephone number validation system may transmit identifying information about the customer, about the promissory payment, and about the transaction.);

calculating a suspicious activity score (by a risk assessment system 370) for the customer wherein the suspicious activity score is based at least in part on the validation errors such that the suspicious activity score is indicative of a level of suspicion associated with the one or more previous financial transactions performed by the customer ([0076] and [0089]);

storing the suspicious activity score in a database wherein the database associates the suspicious activity score with the customer identification information (such as a telephone number or driver's license number) that identifies the customer;

acquiring customer identification information and transaction information for a current financial transaction (Figs. 5 and 6 are illustrating steps for using the telephone number validation system for a current financial transaction. An OCR and a scanner may be used to capture an image of a check or other promissory payment with imprinted address information that is offered in conjunction with a financial transaction.) is associated with the customer ([0090]-[0091]);

determining suspicious activity associated with the current financial transactions by identifying one or more validation errors in the transaction information associated with the current financial transaction; (Figs. 5 and 6 are illustrating steps for using the telephone number validation system for a current financial transaction. An OCR and a scanner may be used to capture an image of a check or other promissory payment with imprinted address information that is offered in conjunction with a financial transaction and [0074]);

using the customer identification information to retrieve the suspicious activity score stored in the database that is indicative of a level of suspicion associated with one or more previous financial transactions conducted by the customer (In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 3B, a scoring engine 360 may use information about the validity of a telephone number 320 offered by a customer as a factor in producing the risk score for the transaction. The information about the validity of the telephone number 320 may be determined by the telephone number validation system 315 and may be transmitted to the risk assessment system 370 for use in

assessing the risk of the transaction. Alternatively, the phone number validation module 350 of the risk assessment system 370 may determine the validity of the phone number 320.);

modifying the suspicious activity score at least in part on validation errors in the transaction information associated with the current financial transaction([0060]);

authorizing the current financial transaction based in least in part on the whether the suspicious activity score is acceptable ([0089]-[0094]).

Re claim 2, Mollett et al. disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein processing financial transactions comprises cashing a paper drafted check ([0046] and [0052]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 3, 4, 6-13, and 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mollett et al. (US 2003/0216988 A1, cited by the applicant) in view of Otto (US 6,578,760 B1).

Re claims 3, 4, and 22-26, Mollett et al. disclose systems and methods for using information indicative of whether a phone number received from a customer in conjunction with a proposed financial transaction is valid or non-valid to help assess risk associated with the transaction. In one embodiment, information about the validity or non-validity of a telephone number is used to determine whether or not to accept the proposed financial transaction. In one embodiment, information about the validity or non-validity of a telephone number is converted into a variable that used in conjunction with other risk indicators to produce a risk score for evaluating the risk of a proposed transaction.

However, the reference is silent about the method and system being used at an ATM utilizing biometric information for verification of a person who attempts to cash a check.

Otto discloses a self-service kiosk for cashing checks. A kiosk, such as an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) receives a bank check from a customer. The system includes a various verification devices to minimize a fraudulent activity.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated an ATM as one of self-service check cashing terminal as taught by Otto into the teachings of Mollett et al. for the purpose of maximizing the usability and applicability of a risk scoring based financial transaction terminal.

Re claim 6, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 5 stated above, wherein the biometric information is an image (iris or retina, or fingerprint images).

Re claim 7, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the system and method as recited in rejected claim 5 stated above, comparing the customer's identification information to information stored in the suspicious persons database comprises comparing the customer's biometric information to previously stored biometric information in the suspicious persons database (col. 6, ll. 37-37 of Otto; It is well known that biometric data of a person is stored as biometric template in a database for a future verification by comparing it with an input – live biometric data of the person.).

Re claims 8 and 9, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the system and method as recited in rejected claim 7 stated above, wherein the method further comprises contacting a customer service agent if the customer's biometric information matches at least one of the previously stored biometric information in the suspicious person database and verifying the identity of the customer by the customer service agent if the customer's biometric information matches at least one of the previously stored biometric information in the suspicious persons database (Fig. 4 of Mollett et al. disclose a process of a clerk re-verifying customer's unique information against a negative database. The same process may be applied to a verification process that uses a biometric data of a user.).

Re claim 10, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the system and method as recited in rejected claim 9 stated above, wherein the method further comprises declining the current financial transaction (step 655 in Fig. 6) for the customer if the customer service agent

determines that the customer is engaging in suspicious behavior or suspicious activity (step 450 in Fig. 4 of Mollett et al.).

Re claim 11, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the system and method as recited in rejected claim 10 stated above, wherein the suspicious activity comprises suspicious behavior ([0093-0103]).

Re claim 12, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the system and method as recited in rejected claim 11 stated above, wherein the method further comprises verifying the suspicious activity score by the customer service agent if the suspicious activity score is above a pre-selected threshold ([0093-0103]).

Re claim 13, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the system and method as recited in rejected claim 12 stated above, wherein the method further comprises declining the current financial transaction by the customer service agent if the suspicious activity score is above a pre-selected threshold ([0093-0103]).

Re claim 27, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the system and method as recited in rejected claim 26 stated above, wherein the transaction information comprises information on the check (step 35 of Fig. 2 in the Otto reference).

Re claim 28, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the system and method as recited in rejected claim 22 stated above, wherein the storage component is a database (biometric database; col. 6, ll. 30-38).

Re claim 29, Mollett et al. in view of Otto disclose the system and method as recited in rejected claim 22 stated above, wherein the suspicious behavior or suspicious activity includes fraud (col. 2, line 5-col. 3, line 22).

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the prior arts of the record discloses, teaches, or fairly suggests the claimed method including, among other things, validation errors as recited in claim 5.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed October 24, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The applicant argues that Mollett does not describe validation errors in both a previous transaction and a current transaction.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Figs. 5 and 6 describe steps involved with a current financial transaction. The scanner and OCR as described in the reference are capable of verifying/validating current information shown on promissory payments such as check, credit card, debit card, private label, gift card and other methods.

Therefore, the examiner interprets the Mollett reference is applicable for both a previous financial transaction and a current financial transaction.

Rejection of Claims 3 and 5-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Since the argument of primary reference Mollett is moot in view of above discussion. Dependent claims and other independent claims arguing aforementioned deficiency appear to be unpersuasive for the reasons discussed in this Office Action.

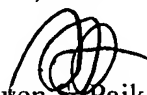
In summary, claims 1-4, 6-13, and 22-29 remained rejected, and claim 5 is objected.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 5:30a-2:00p (Maxi-Flex*).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Steven S. Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876